

# Wine Spectator Insider

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**INSIDER SPECIAL REPORT: TUSCANY** This week's *Wine Spectator Insider* features three dozen exceptional red wines from Tuscany, and James Suckling bestows classic ratings on an amazing 17 of them. They are mostly from the 2006 and 2007 vintages, both outstanding in quality.

Many come from the Chianti region, but use non-traditional grapes and so take the more permissive Toscana appellation. Others use the Cortona or Maremma DOC. But all show the creative hand of the winemaker, working with a palette of grapes that includes not only the native Sangiovese, but also Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Syrah. (The two top-scoring wines this week, at 98 points each, are a Merlot and a Syrah; you'll find them among the Hot Wines, on page 4.) In the diversity of their blends and wine styles, these wines show the tremendous range and depth of Tuscan reds today.

## Italy Tuscany

### PODERE POGGIO SCALETTE

Alta Valle della Greve Il Carbonaione 2006

**96 points | \$65 | 500 cases imported | Red**

Amazing dark color for a Sangiovese. Mind-blowing aromas of crushed blackberries, violets and blueberries, with sandalwood undertones. Full-bodied, with silky and focused tannins and beautiful, rich and subtle flavors. It lasts for minutes on the palate. Best ever from this estate, which is owned by legendary winemaker Vittorio Fiore. Sangiovese. Best from 2011 through 2017.—*J.S.*

### TENIMENTI LUIGI D'ALESSANDRO

Syrah Cortona Il Bosco 2006

**95 points | \$70 | 1,335 cases made | Red**

Intense licorice, blackberries, minerals, sandalwood and flowers on the nose. Full-bodied, with superpolished and silky tannins that turn to a butterscotch, toffee, berry and chocolate aftertaste, with just a hint of meat and spice. Tannic and powerful, yet balanced. Best after 2012.—*J.S.*

### RICCARDO BARACCHI

Toscana Ardito 2006

**95 points | \$50 | 300 cases imported | Red**

Dark color, with impressive aromas of licorice, pepper, currants and berries. Full-bodied, with supersilky and powerful tannins, yet reserved and balanced. Very harmonious, with a long finish. Cabernet and Syrah. Best after 2011.—*J.S.*

### DEI

Toscana Sancta Catharina 2007

**95 points | \$50 | 100 cases imported | Red**

Dark color, with blueberry, licorice and mahogany. Complex. Full-bodied, with velvety tannins and a fabulous core of fruit. Builds on you. Goes on for minutes. Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah and Petit Verdot. Best after 2013.—*J.S.*

### DIADEMA

Toscana 2007

**95 points | \$78 | 400 cases imported | Red**

Fabulous aromas of crushed berries, spices, black licorice and smoke. Full-bodied, with a beautiful density of rich and ripe fruit, as well as coffee and toffee. Complex and spellbinding. The bottle is total bling, with encrusted Swarovski crystals as a label, but the wine is very, very real. Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah. Best after 2011.—*J.S.*

## FONTERUTOLI

Toscana Siepi 2006

**95 points | \$118 | 500 cases imported | Red**

Intense aromas of blackberries, black licorice and dried flowers. Full-bodied, with silky and fine tannins and a long, rich finish. Polished and well made. One of the best ever from here. Sangiovese and Merlot. Best after 2011.—*J.S.*

## FONTODI

Syrah Colli della Toscana Centrale Case Via 2006

**95 points | \$65 | 300 cases imported | Red**

Gorgeous grilled meat, ripe fruit and a lightly toasted oak character. Full-bodied, with velvety tannins, fresh acidity and a flavorful finish. Hints of new oak and spices. Wow. Fantastic. Best after 2011.—*J.S.*

## MARCHESI DE' FRESCOBALDI

Merlot Toscana Castelgiocondo Lamaione 2006

**95 points | \$75 | 200 cases imported | Red**

Dark color. Intense aromas of mineral, spice, blackberry and coffee bean. Full-bodied, with a super core of ripe fruit and velvety tannins. Polished and very, very beautiful. Love the texture to this wine. Fantastic effort from the Frescobaldis on this. Best after 2011.—*J.S.*

## ANTICO PODERE GAGLIOLE

Colli della Toscana Centrale 2007

**95 points | \$100 | 150 cases imported | Red**

Sweet berry and plum aromas are floral and pretty. Pure and beautiful fruit here. Full-bodied, with ripe yet delectable fruit that lasts for minutes on the palate. Ultrafine tannins. Goes on for minutes. Sangiovese and Cabernet Sauvignon. Best after 2012.—*J.S.*

## BIBI GRAETZ

Toscana Testamatta 2007

**95 points | \$125 | 370 cases imported | Red**

Aromas of prunes, dried flowers, porcini and cedar follow through to a full body, with velvety tannins and lots of ripe fruit and milk chocolate. It's long and very soft, yet powerful. Sangiovese. Best after 2011.—*J.S.*

## NOZZOLE

Toscana Il Pareto 2006

**95 points | \$85 | 1,665 cases made | Red**

Beautiful aromas of crushed blackberries and currants, with intense cassis character. Full-bodied, with supersilky tannins and amazing pure fruit. Lasts for minutes. Best Pareto in a long time. Cabernet Sauvignon. Best after 2011.—*J.S.*

## SETTE PONTI

Toscana Oreno 2007

**95 points | \$95 | 1,250 cases imported | Red**

Subtle and classy on the nose, with flowers, blueberries, dried cherries and currants. Full-bodied and very polished, with refined tannins, pretty fruit and a light vanilla and coffee aftertaste. Builds on your palate. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Sangiovese. Best after 2013.—*J.S.*

## TUA RITA

Toscana Giusto di Notri 2007

**95 points | \$110 | 2,515 cases made | Red**

Fabulous aromas of currant and blackberry, with hints of mint and sandalwood. Full-bodied, with ultrasilky tannins and a long, beautiful finish. All in balance. This has wonderful harmony. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Best after 2011.—*J.S.*

## CASTELLO DI AMA

Toscana L'Apparita 2006

**94 points | \$240 | 30 cases imported | Red**

Wonderful crushed berry and jam aromas, with hints of black olives and herbs. Full-bodied, with soft and refined tannins, pretty fruit and a mineral and floral aftertaste. Merlot. Best from 2011 through 2016.—*J.S.*

## ARGIANO

Toscana Solengo 2006

**94 points | \$78 | 500 cases imported | Red**

Black pepper, blackberry and mulberry aromas. Full-bodied, dense and rich, with seamless tannins and a silky, polished texture. Impressive length and structure. Built for aging. Reminds me of the 1999. Petit Verdot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah and Merlot. Best after 2012.—*J.S.*

## CABREO

Toscana Il Borgo 2007

**94 points | \$60 | 2,000 cases imported | Red**

Love the licorice and crushed blackberries on the nose. Some raisins. Full-bodied, with big, velvety tannins and lots of powerful fruit. The mineral, aniseed and crushed dark berries are impressive. Dense and concentrated, yet balanced. Best ever from here. Sangiovese and Cabernet Sauvignon. Best after 2011.—*J.S.*

## CARPINETA FONTALPINO

Toscana Do ut Des 2007

**94 points | \$38 | 250 cases imported | Red**

Very ripe and intense on the nose, with prune, licorice, blackberries and flowers. Full-bodied, with chewy tannins and a long, powerful finish, with lots of toasted oak and ripe fruit. Full-throttle style. Sangiovese, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. Best after 2012.—*J.S.*

## CASALOSTE

Toscana Inversus 2004

**94 points | \$50 | 165 cases imported | Red**

A little raisiny, with blackberry and licorice and just a hint of tar. Full-bodied, with soft and velvety tannins and a wild richness on the finish. Loads going on here. This is a winery making things happen in Panzano. Merlot and Sangiovese. Best after 2011.—*J.S.*

## CASTELVECCHIO

Toscana Il Brecciolino 2006

**94 points | \$46 | 400 cases imported | Red**

Powerful aromas of blackberry, vanilla and blueberry. Full-bodied, with a solid core of fruit and wonderfully velvety tannins and a rich and fruity finish. So complex on the finish, with berry, toasted oak and chocolate. Sangiovese, Petit Verdot and Merlot. Best after 2011.—*J.S.*

## DUEMANI

Cabernet Franc Toscana 2006

**94 points | \$100 | 50 cases imported | Red**

Exotic aromas of smoke, meat, crushed berries and fresh herbs. Full-bodied and polished, with chewy tannins and lots of fruit. Built for aging. Very concentrated. Big, New World-like sort of red. Best after 2011.—*J.S.*

## LUCE DELLA VITE

Toscana Luce 2006

**94 points | \$89 | 1,000 cases imported | Red**

Very pretty aromas of cherry pie, blackberries and spices follow through to a full body, with clean, velvety tannins and a delicious, fruity finish. Turns chewy and powerful. Already hard to resist. Merlot and Sangiovese. Best after 2010.—*J.S.*

## NITTARDI

Maremma Toscana Nectar Dei 2006

**94 points | \$64 | 80 cases imported | Red**

Complex aromas of blackberry, blueberry, currant and licorice. Full-bodied, with silky tannins and toasted oak that turns to vanilla and coffee. Rich and wonderful. Nectar. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah and Petit Verdot. Best after 2012.—*J.S.*

## PETROLO

Toscana Torrione 2007

**94 points | \$40 | 1,000 cases imported | Red**

Beautiful aromas of plums, berries and chocolates. Clear and precise. Full-bodied, very refined, with a dense yet elegant palate of plum, chocolate and cherry. Long and caressing. Very fine. Wonderfully polished. Sangiovese and Merlot. Best after 2010.—*J.S.*

## POGGIO AL TESORO

Toscana Dedicato a Walter 2006

**94 points | \$90 | 300 cases imported | Red**

Dark ruby color, with lots of sweet herbs, tea and dark berries on the nose. Full-bodied, with loads of fruit and chewy, polished tannins. This is a big and powerful wine, with a deep core of fruit and excellent structure. From the Allegrinis of Veneto. Cabernet Franc. Best after 2012.—*J.S.*

## FATTORIA LE PUPILLE

Maremma Toscana Saffredi 2006

**94 points | \$102 | 300 cases imported | Red**

Wow. I love the nose of flowers, dark fruits and Tuscan rosemary. Full-bodied, with supersilky tannins and gorgeous, refined fruit. Complex and seductive. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Alicante and Syrah. Best after 2013.—*J.S.*

## TENUTA SAN GUIDO

Bolgheri-Sassicaia Sassicaia 2006

**94 points | \$215 | 3,000 cases imported | Red**

Aromas of sweet tobacco, plums and berries, with a jammy undertone. Turns to licorice. Full-bodied, with silky tannins and plenty of pretty fruit. Balanced and very pretty. Lovely texture. Outstanding Sass, with structure and finesse. 85 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and 15 percent Cabernet Franc. Best after 2013.—*J.S.*

## VITICCIO

Toscana Monile 2006

**94 points | \$55 | 300 cases imported | Red**

Currants, berries, lightly toasted oak and light coffee. Full-bodied, with lots of ripe fruit, soft, silky tannins and a rich finish. Ripe and beautiful. Lovely texture too. Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Best after 2012.—*J.S.*

## ANTINORI

Toscana Tignanello 2006

**93 points | \$95 | 29,165 cases made | Red**

Intense aromas of ripe blackberries and flowers, with hints of rosemary and coffee. Full-bodied, with chewy yet polished tannins. Excellent fruit concentration and a flavorful aftertaste. Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. Best after 2012.—*J.S.*

## LA BRACCESCA

Syrah Cortona Bramasole 2006

**93 points | \$38 | 2,750 cases made | Red**

Black licorice, black pepper and meat aromas. Complex. Full-bodied, with velvety tannins. Chocolate, meat and fruit. So polished and beautiful. Goes on and on. Like a pretty single-cru Côte-Rôtie. Best after 2010.—*J.S.*

## ARGIANO

Toscana Suolo 2006

**92 points | \$165 | 50 cases imported | Red**

A silky and pretty red, with sweet plum and cherry character that turns to cigar box and cedar. Full-bodied and tight, with structure underneath it all. Chewy and rich. Backwards now. Sangiovese. Best after 2011.—*J.S.*

## BARONE RICASOLI

Toscana Casalferro 2006

**92 points | \$54 | 1,000 cases imported | Red**

Complex aromas of blackberries, violets and red licorice. Full-bodied, with silky tannins and a long, caressing finish. All in finesse. Sangiovese and Merlot. Best from 2011 through 2016.—*J.S.*

## ISOLE E OLENA

Toscana Cepparello 2006

**92 points | \$80 | 1,000 cases imported | Red**

Roses and citrus fruit, with dried cherries. Some earth. Full-bodied, with soft, silky tannins and a fruity finish. Refined and racy, like a fine Brunello. Sangiovese. Best after 2010.—*J.S.*

# HOT WINES

These are the most exciting discoveries from our editors' most recent tastings, published exclusively in *Wine Spectator Insider*. They are high-scoring, low-production wines from around the world that may be difficult to find, but are worth seeking out.

## TENIMENTI LUIGI D'ALESSANDRO

Syrah Cortona Migliara 2006

**98 points | \$100 | 500 cases made | Red**

Black color, with amazing aromas of blackberries, anise, black pepper, and minerals. Full-bodied, with braised meat, superpolished tannins and an ultralong finish. The bomb. This is the first release of a single-vineyard Syrah made by Piedmont's Luca Currado (Vietti) and Christine Vernay (Georges Vernay/Condrieu), who now consults here. Best after 2011. *From Italy.—J.S.*

## PETROLO

Toscana Galatrona 2007

**98 points | \$120 | 450 cases imported | Red**

Great color. Fabulous aromas of crushed blackberries, violets and toasted oak. Black olives too. Full-bodied, with powerful, ripe tannins and amazing flavors of blueberries, dark chocolate and toast. It lasts for minutes on the palate. Reminds me of the 1989 Pétrus. Stunning Merlot. Best after 2012. *From Italy.—J.S.*

## ANTINORI

Toscana Solaia 2006

**97 points | \$285 | 6,250 cases made | Red**

Loads of mint, eucalyptus, currants and some meat on the nose. Full-bodied, with masses of fruit, yet reserved and structured. Mouthpuckering now from all the tannins, but this is a wine that will give incredible pleasure in years to come. Cabernet Sauvignon, Sangiovese and Cabernet Franc. Best after 2014. *From Italy.—J.S.*

## LE MACCHIOLE

Toscana Messorio 2006

**96 points | \$319 | 150 cases imported | Red**

Fresh herb and black olive aromas evolve into dark fruits and flowers. Lots of wood too. Full-bodied, with chewy, polished tannins and new wood, but there is plenty of fruit underneath. Opulent and powerful, verging on blockbuster. Extreme style of Merlot. Best after 2014. *From Italy.—J.S.*

## WINE SPECTATOR'S TASTERS

### The Most Experienced Team of Wine Journalists in the World

*Wine Spectator's* tasting staff includes 14 people in three offices. They work together to review more than 18,000 wines each year, more than any other publication. Together, our seven senior tasters count more than 140 years of tasting experience.

We always taste wine blind in our offices in Napa, New York and Tuscany. This is your guarantee that our reviews are fair and objective, and that a wine's reputation or price does not influence its score. Each editor specializes in the wines of specific regions; their initials identify the taster of each wine reviewed. We score wines using the 100-point scale, explained below.

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Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1983. Tasting beat: California

**Kim Marcus** Managing editor, New York

Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1988. Tasting beat: Austria, Greece, Portugal, southern France

**Thomas Matthews** Executive editor, New York

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**James Molesworth** Senior editor, New York

Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1997. Tasting beat: Argentina, Chile, Loire Valley, Rhône Valley, South Africa

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**Harvey Steiman** Editor at large, San Francisco

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**James Suckling** European bureau chief, Italy

Joined *Wine Spectator* in 1981. Tasting beat: Bordeaux, Italy, Port

Tasting staff:

**Tim Fish** (California),

**Alison Napjus** (Alsace),

**MaryAnn Worobiec** (California)

#### Wine Spectator's 100-Point Scale

95-100	Classic
90-94	Outstanding
85-89	Very good
80-84	Good
75-79	Mediocre
50-74	Not recommended